

At the Theatres.

At the Academy.
Monday Night—Florence Davis, in "The Player Maid."
Thursday Night—Forbes Robertson as "Hamlet."

At the Bijou.
"Arizona," all the week, with the usual matinees.

Mr. Forbes Robertson and his English company, under the direction of Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, is to come to this city for an engagement of but one performance at the Academy Thursday night.

Theatregoers will be given a Shakespearean offering, for Mr. Robertson brings his own version of "Hamlet," which he has prepared from the Cambridge and Variorum editions of Shakespeare. In his arrangement of the scenes, he has confined the action exclusively to the Castle of Elsinore, thus avoiding as much as possible a change of scene, and also allowing more scope and freedom of movement to the characters. The production is identically the same as used by Mr. Robertson during his successful run of "Hamlet" in London two years ago, Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger having brought the equipment over intact, together with all the properties, armor, costumes and accessories.

Mr. Robertson presents Hamlet as a perfectly sane man, thereby differing from the Hamlets given by others. At the opening of the play, he finds himself surrounded by some terrible situation, which would most certainly unnerve any ordinary being. Hamlet is further shocked at his father's death, and wounded by his mother's marrying again so quickly. He suspects foul play, and is convinced of it by the appearance of the ghost.

Mr. Ian Robertson will be seen as the King, Miss Madge McIntosh as the Queen, and Miss Kate Rorke, Mr. Robertson's leading lady, as Ophelia.

The Player Maid.

"The Player Maid," by Louise Malloy, in which Miss Florence Davis, supported by Elliott Dexter, plays a return engagement at the Academy to-morrow, is a romantic comedy of 1750, the heroine being a young actress of Drury Lane Theatre at the period of David Garrick's management of that house. The action is mainly on the comedy order with just a touch of the serious and emotional to brighten the effect of the humor and give proper contrast. The plot revolves about the rescue of the young actress, half just, half mad, to punish by a clever trick a young nobleman of the gay society of London for a fancied slight to her charms, and the subsequent entanglement and threatened serious turn of her madcap frolic. The role is one which gives a great deal of variety in the acting, and it has an air of quaintness about the whole, together with an interesting story. The period and action of the play give chance for picturesque scenes, the costumes, and the setting and for interest in the personages presented. The production is a massive one, designed by Phyllog, whose imprint is a hall-mark of high art.

"Arizona" at the Bijou.

"Arizona," which will be presented at the Bijou Theatre all this week, is one of the best plays of its kind ever written. When Mr. Thomas looked about for subject and location for this play he settled upon the beautiful Aravaipa Valley in Arizona with its broad and fertile acres on which graze thousands of heads of live stock. At the United States fort located in this beautiful country, at which was stationed a company of cavalry, Mr. Thomas stumbled upon a skeleton in the closet of the commanding colonel's home. Again, the facts gathered there, the active brain of the author evolved the above charming comedy drama. The colonel's wife, being a great deal younger than her old but devoted husband, in a moment of weakness listens to the flattery of a young, good-



MR. FORBES ROBERTSON AS HAMLET.

looking, but inscrupulous captain. In the opening chapters of the play, events had progressed so far that she had agreed to elope with him on the evening of a grand ball when all the members of the post would be gathered in the dance hall. The escapade seems doubly safe owing to the fact that the colonel has been called away to attend a conference of officers at a distant post.

A note containing the details of the plot is intercepted by Jane Keller, a servant girl whom the captain has wronged a year previous, and is turned over to Lieutenant Denton, a manly young officer who is in love with Benita, a sister of the colonel's erring wife. The plan is thereby frustrated. But the complications are such as to place young Denton in a bad light before his commanding officers, who return unexpectedly, the officers' meeting having been declared off. Denton is forced to resign and leave the post, and the colonel and his wife live the life of a house divided against itself, until unexpected marching orders bring all the principals together again at the ranch of Canby, the father of Benita and Denton, the colonel's wife, where Denton is employed as boss of the cowboys. Here the true facts come to light and the guilty captain is shot by a Mexican, Tony, who is in love with the servant, Jane. The scene pictures in "Arizona" are all taken from original sketches, and the costumes and apparatus are said to be correct in every detail.

RAPIDAN RIPPLES.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
RAPIDAN, VA., APRIL 8.—Mr. L. Block, of Gordonsville, has recently been in our vicinity.
Mrs. Stuart Breese is visiting relatives and friends in Baltimore.
Dr. H. S. Willis has returned from a visit to relatives in Washington, D. C.
Mrs. E. Parrish is on a visit to friends in Philadelphia.
Mr. C. W. Moore is visiting relatives at Mine Run.
Prof. W. W. Briggs, of Locust Dale, is visiting friends in Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Robert Sales, of Ironsboro, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. M. P. Grady, has returned home.
Mr. Joseph Wilmer is visiting President

Roosevelt and family at the White House in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. S. A. Carpenter and daughter, little Miss Ella Ellen, have returned from a visit to relatives in Culpeper and Brandy.

Mrs. Irving Hill, of Locust Dale, is on a



STRIKING SCENE FROM BEN HUR.

visit to her home in North Carolina.
Misses Lizzie and Margaret Conway, who have been on an extended stay in Richmond, have returned home. The health of the latter is greatly improved, we are glad to say.

Sunday school was reorganized at Nebo Chapel on Sunday last with the following officers elected for the ensuing year: Messrs. James S. Willis, superintendent; C. T. Lohr, secretary, and S. A. Carpenter, treasurer.
Miss Bettie Gordon, of Locust Dale, is visiting friends in Washington, D. C.
Mr. Ernest Estes has accepted a position in Alexandria.
Mrs. James Thornton, of Gordonsville, is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. Estes.

racing scene on the stage, from time to time, but nothing so elaborate as the mechanism employed to show the chariot race, one of the greatest scenes in the spectacle, has ever been invented. The solution of another important problem was attained with greatest difficulty, but the dramatist also successfully met this crucial test of his ability. He realized that public opinion would not tolerate any attempt to depict the bodily presence of the Redeemer on the stage, and, therefore, discarded the idea. He skillfully solved the difficulty and preserved a vital element in the book that was essential to the success of the play, by suggesting the nearness of His presence by a shaft of

light in the last act of the drama. The spectacle is altogether impressive and exciting, as the illusion is so carefully preserved that the merely theatrical aspect of the scene does not unduly obstruct itself.
"Ben Hur" is so well known that an extended introduction is hardly necessary. The curtain will rise each night of the week precisely at 8 o'clock. Those who are not in their places at that hour will miss the beautiful prelude—"The Star of Bethlehem"—and the impressive descriptive music, for the management will not seat anyone during the progress of this scene.
During the engagement of "Ben Hur" in this city, matinees will be given Wednesday and Saturday, beginning at 2 o'clock, precisely.
Synopsis of Scenes.
A brief synopsis of the dramatist's arrangement of "Ben Hur" is as follows:
The prelude shows the Wise Men in the desert; the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem; the journey of the sages towards the City of David, in Judea.
Act I. The roof of the Palace of the Prince of Idar in Jerusalem; the quarrel between Messala and Ben Hur; Messala leaves Ben Hur in anger; Ben Hur and Tirzah on the roof watching the entry of Valerius Gratius into Jerusalem; the accident of the falling tile; the attack on the Palace by the legions of Gratius



MISS ADA GIFFORD,
Who Plays Tirzah in Arizona at the Bijou.

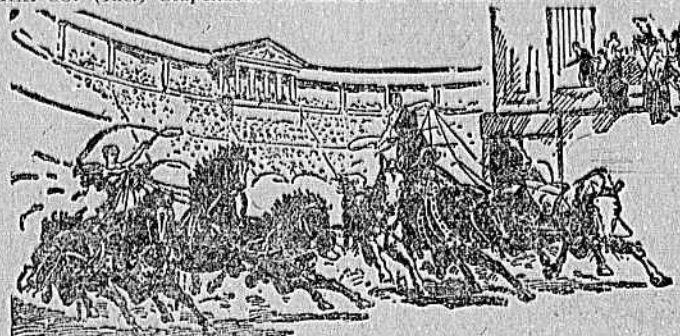
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BEN HUR TO PLAY HERE AT EASTER

The Production to be Given in Virginia for the First Time.

The Klaw & Erlanger's production of General Wallace's masterpiece "Ben Hur" will be presented at the Academy Easter week. First nights with big productions are always looked upon with extra favor, and judging by the advance booking, theatregoers of this city have fallen into line, indications pointing to a capacity audience. The success that has attended "Ben Hur" since its first performance in New York City, November, 1899, is almost remarkable. The manufacturing of a drama from General Lew Wallace's novel offered more difficulties and involved the solution of more intricate problems than ever before confronted producing managers, but they were all effectively overcome. Various devices have been used to represent

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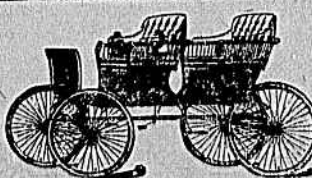
lem to greet the Nazarene, singing hymns of praise and waving palm branches; the miracle of the cleansing of the lepers is performed; Ben Hur, his mother and sister, and Esther are united amid great choruses of thanksgiving, swelling

out from the hillside all around, as the final curtain descends.
The advance sale of seats begins next Thursday morning at 8 o'clock. The engagement is for the entire week of April 24, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday.

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